

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-59 are presently pending in this application, Claims 22-24 having been canceled, Claims 25, 27, 31, 33, 34, 36-38, 40-43, 45, 46, 48, 51, 52 and 55-57 having been amended, and Claim 59 having been newly added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 22-24, 27-33 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cammenga et al. (U.S. Patent 6,166,848) in view of Ito et al. (U.S. Patent 4,874,229); Claims 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cammenga et al. in view of Ito et al., and further in view of Bunish et al. (U.S. Patent 3,800,065); Claims 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cammenga et al. in view of Ito et al., and further in view of Maddison et al. (U.S. Patent 5,554,176); and Claims 55 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cammenga et al. in view of Ito et al., and further in view of Lynam (U.S. Patent 6,304,363). However, Claims 25, 26, 34-37, 40-45, 48-51, 53, 54, 57 and 58 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

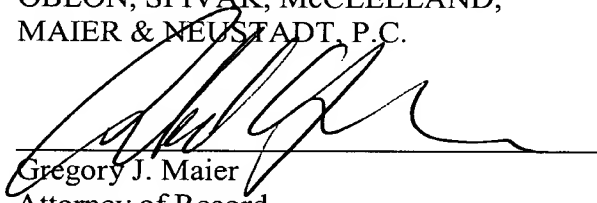
First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 25, 26, 34-37, 40-45, 48-51, 53, 54, 57 and 58 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 25, 34, 36, 37, 40-43, 45, 48, 51, 52 and 57 have been rewritten in their respective independent forms, Claims 27, 31, 33, 38, 46, 55 and 56 have been amended to depend from Claim-25, and Claim 59 corresponding to Claim 23 but depending from Claim 25 has been newly added. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 22-24 be canceled without prejudice.

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In light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter and in view of the amendments presented above, no issues are believed to be outstanding, and thus the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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